

Battalion Editorials

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Conservation -- Through Efficient Use . . .

Each year about this time, residents get the gardening urge and avidly begin watering their scorched lawns and gardens. Inadvertently, the water supply drops and water conservation is asked.

This serves as a very stable basis for the argument against our taking things for granted. To the average user, water is just something that flows from the earth in a never ending supply, or from the sky as rain. However, this is not the case. Each year about this time, the water levels under the earth's surface drop to the extent that the usually efficient pumps no longer can meet the increasing demand.

When these conditions are reached, something must be done to conserve our waning water supply. Yesterday, the mayors of Bryan and College Station, and the manager of A&M's Physical Plants urged conservation. The present wells are pumping at full capacity, but still

there is a steady decline in the water level of the reservoirs.

Residents were not asked to discontinue their use of water for lawns and gardens, but emphasis was placed on using it sparingly. It will be up to the residents themselves to interpret the meaning of the word sparingly. We believe that if each of the local residents were to conserve only a few gallons of water daily as their civic duty to the community, conditions would be greatly improved.

Locally, the situation has not become as critical as it has in some of our larger cities, where water supply levels have dropped considerably. Proposed facilities will soon increase the local supply from the present daily capacity of 4 million gallons to more than 6 million gallons per day. Yet we should not be lulled into a false sense of security, as our supply too may become even more critical than it is today.

The Tidelands -- A Victim of Federal Aggression . . .

From time to time, in the course of a state's history, certain events occur which remove from the states some of their rights and privileges. Many of the states in these United States have had little trouble with the national government in having it take away or claim ownership to certain parts of its properties.

Texas, as well as one or two other states with oceans or seas on its borders, has felt the wandering touch of federal aggression on its lands. Recently United States Supreme Court members voted 5 to 4 that Texas tidelands became property of and under the jurisdiction of the federal government when the state was annexed.

When the federal government first made an attempt to take over the possession of the oil rich tidelands, \$100,000 was set aside by the state legislature to fight the case. This amount and more has been spent, but members of the supreme court would not accept the state's evidence of ownership.

In 1836, Texas and Mexico set up by treaty the states boundaries at the Rio Grande River and 3 leagues (slightly more than nine miles) out into the Gulf of Mexico.

Texas' first request for admission on an equal basis with other states previously admitted were refused. To be accepted

on an equal basis meant that the federal government would receive the state's properties, as well as the state's debt. This state however, was not admitted because of a ten million dollar debt. Under aspects of its later admittance, the state of Texas was to retain its public domain of "vacant and unappropriated lands" to pay its debts. This included the debt as well as 8 1/2 miles of tidelands.

Justice Felix Frankfurter, who cast a dissenting vote, said that the Supreme Court "now decides that when Texas entered the Union she lost what she had and the U. S. acquired it." The Supreme Court's decision has yet to be acted upon by Congress.

Temporary authority to operate the tidelands areas pending permanent congressional action has been proposed by congressional legislation. If this action is carried out, it can mean only the moving in of the federal government on states rights. Furthermore, the cost of setting up of a tidelands operational program by the federal government will cost a great deal.

Therefore, we can but hope that congress will refuse this authority, and allow the states to retain the right of operation of that which belongs to them.

Big Little Man of the UN -- Russia . . .

"So long as men are dying on the battle fields in defense of the United Nations, this council will not wish to cheapen their suffering or sully their heroism by seeming to engage in the consideration of deals."

These words spoken by the American Security Council Delegate Warren R. Austin reflect not only the official beliefs of America but also those of the average citizen. We are engaged in the first active disciplinary action taken by the United Nations. This is the time to prove whether civilized nations can band together and police outlaws against free choice of government.

Russia's Jakob A. Malik, council president, has attempted to put strings on this action. He has demanded that Red China be admitted to the council and tried to link the two questions together.

Korea and China are located close to-

gether on the map, but that is about as far as the two are linked. Since Malik's return to the council, he has been complaining and trying to "make a deal" with the active world powers who have decided at long last to stand up to the Kremlin.

To back down now would be tossing one more small country down the hungry maw of Uncle Joe. Enough of this deferring to Soviet Russia has already taken place. Russia has and is continuing to act like a small time bully. It's thinly disguised fact that Russia has been supplying the North Korean forces.

Now, when the United Nations sends in a force to quell the uprising, Stalin and his satellites endeavor to cloud the issue and to throw moral axioms to convince the world they are innocent. Haven't they heard the old saying, "A guilty mind needs no accuser?"

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"
Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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'A CAPITALIST PLOT'



State School Survey Slated By Committee

Austin, Texas--The next two or three years will be critical for all of the higher education institutions in Texas, said Dr. D. M. Wiggins, Chairman of the Council of College Presidents and President of Texas Tech at Lubbock, in announcing the appointment of a committee to make a study of the cost and services of state supported institutions of higher learning in Texas.

The study will be a thorough survey to compare the cost, enrollment, and other factors with colleges and universities in other states of the country.

"The study is not in conflict with the survey of state higher education currently being made by the Legislative Council to which survey members of the Council have given unanimous approval and support," Dr. Wiggins said. "All hope that out of these studies will come a more efficient and productive system of higher education. We are confident that the people of Texas want our system of state supported institutions of higher learning to rank among the best in the United States," the Council President said.

Among some of the major problems connected with the survey will be the rising cost of higher education and the reasons for the increase. Dr. Wiggins pointed out several reasons for an increased cost during recent years. "A sharp decrease in Veterans Administration funds available as veterans complete their schooling.



TODAY & SATURDAY
Features Start
1:30 - 3:08 - 4:45 - 6:22
7:59 - 9:36



PREVIEW TONIGHT
FIRST RUN
Feature Starts 11:30 P.M.



PREVIEW SATURDAY
11:00 P.M.
Feature Starts 11:30 P.M.



Behind the Scenes . . .

Home Life 'The Navy Way' Depicted In Current Movie

By FRED WALKER

(The Skipper Surprised His Wife--MGM--Palace, Wednesday through Saturday--Starring Robert Walker, Joan Leslie, Edward Arnold, Spring Byington)

Do you realize that the fourth largest industry in California is fishing? Could you housewives possibly conceive of cutting half the number of total hours from your working day? Or that a dirty old bone, laying harmlessly and unassumingly beneath the cushion of a chair, is cause for divorce?

All these facts and others, too, may be heard and seen in "The Skipper Surprised His Wife" (But, then, she was none too bright herself.) A farce which should be welcomed a brass overture by Navy men and psychiatrists.

Commander William Latimer (Robert Walker) after a year at sea, welcomes orders commanding him to Sonar School on the beach. He rushes home to a curvaceous wife (Joan Leslie) and two healthy boys, sends the boys to bed, and, like most sailors (I hope the Commander will pardon me for calling him a sailor) settles down for a serious talk with spouse Daphne. They are getting to the more serious subjects when two unexpected visitors arrive. Mr. Rosini, the Sardine King, propositions Billy-boy to take over his fleet of fishing boats, while his slyly frau adds E pluribus unum and a couple of bumps.

It is all a plot. For some obscure reason, Daphne doesn't relish being separated from her husband.

But no! General Quarters is sounded, the Articles for the Constitution of the Navy are read, and the Navy Hymn is chanted by chorus of ten thousand seville en-

listed men. Leave the Navy? Never! As Fishface and his little fin beat a hasty retreat, the fight is on. "O villain, villain, smiling damned villain," shouts the melancholy dame. "Shut thy mouth, dame," retorts Barnacle Bill. But the small tiffle is temporarily interrupted when Daffy (And a good nickname it is.) slips on a skate and breaks her ankle.

The rest of the story is dedicated to a coup de grace. After overcoming minor household disasters, Bill figures how to run the home, attend Sonar School for six hours, and give his son a complex in one easy lesson--or "The Navy Way." A Plan of the Day is mapped out and followed vigorously, and Navy Day is reverently observed on Saturdays.

This is just a wee bit too much

for our drooping Daffy, so she picks up her club foot and the children and goes home to mother. (Something novel.)

But Bill has impressed a barnacle Admiral (Edward Arnold) who smuggles a CIVILIAN (That naughty word!) job for him. This falls through when this blushing housewife foolishly tries to dictate to a woman's club on how to run the home--among said audience being his future boss's wife. Reconciliation is attained when William almost martyrs himself ashore, but as to be expected Daffy tells him to go back to sea. And so Commander William Latimer stops being a housewife, Daphne stops thinking in civilian terms and junior stops sucking his thumb.

This is comedy, but comedy on a low level. Farce ceases to be good when it is mixed with melodrama and cheap burlesque. Joan Leslie is still good to look at, Robert Walker still suffers, Edward Arnold and Spring Byington are still subjected to playing half-wits.

I think that the moral of this picture is never marry a woman that doesn't like sweeping down for and aft, standing at attention before breakfast, saluting, and being separated from her husband for a year at a time.

Comment: Don't laugh too much, Korea isn't over yet.

Dr. W. Davis Heads Mexican Field Trip

Dr. W. B. Davis, Head of the Wildlife Management Department, is conducting a six weeks field trip in Marzaha, Mexico, for the purpose of studying all plant and animal life, according to W. G. Swank, instructor in the Department of Wildlife Management.

Assisting Dr. Davis is James Dixon, instructor in the Department of Wildlife Management; Chester Rowell, instructor in the Department of Biology, Ralph Axell, a student from Texas A&I College, who is a specialist in herpetology, and Lynton Robertson from Bryan, who is doing graduate work at A&M, and special study concerning the lava mouse.

Bernardo Bells of the Game and Forestry Department of Mexico, and Pauline Rojas, an instructor from the Institute of Biology of Mexico City, are also assisting Dr. Davis.

Dr. Davis and his assistants are working with the Mexican government.

Bible Verse

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58.

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